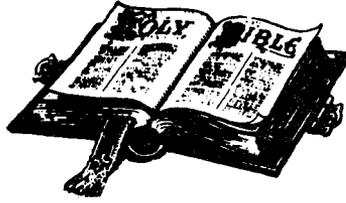


THE INSTRUCTOR



“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16

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CHILDREN – SINGULAR OR PLURAL IN TITUS 1:6?

In an article entitled, “Can A Man With Only One Child Be An Elder?” that appeared in LOCUST LIGHT, 3/15/92, it was argued (regarding the expression “**Having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly**” in Titus 1:6) that:

“If it takes more than one faithful child for a man to qualify it would take more than one riotous or unruly child to disqualify him . . . Surely a word used once in a verse cannot be given two different meanings. Obviously the word CHILDREN in Titus 1:6 means ONE OR MORE.”

In replying to the above argument I would like to make the following observations.

1. It is **not nearly** as obvious to me as it seems to be to the author that “the word CHILDREN in Titus 1:6 means ONE OR MORE.” A little reflection on his argument (in my opinion) reveals the fact that the argument is neither Scriptural nor logical.

2. Paul is **not** discussing what it takes to **disqualify** a man from being a bishop (an elder) but what it takes to **qualify** him to be one. Paul did not say that in order for a man to **disqualify** he must

“**have CHILDREN accused of riot or unruly.**” If Paul had said that, then a man **would** have to have CHILDREN (**plural** since that is the **primary, ordinary** meaning unless that meaning was **forbidden** by the context or by some other Scriptural principle) in order to **disqualify**. Paul told Titus that in order to **qualify** a man must have “**faithful CHILDREN not accused of riot or unruly.**” No, the word CHILDREN does **not** have two meanings in the same verse.

3. If when Paul said “**Having faithful CHILDREN not accused of riot or unruly**” he means having a **plurality** (two or more) is necessary in order for a man to **qualify**, then **any less** than that would **disqualify**. Certainly it would **not** demand that a person have at least two unfaithful children to **disqualify**. **ANY less** than two would **disqualify!** If not, why not?

4. If (for example) Paul lists 15 things that a person must be or have **in order to qualify**, would it be Scriptural or even logical to argue that it would take a lack of the 15 things to **disqualify?** Of

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Editorial . . .

CONVERSION — ITS IMPORTANCE

Conversion is a Bible subject. When dissension arose in Antioch over the question of circumcision, it was determined that Paul and Barnabas and others should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question. Acts 15:3 says: **“And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the CONVERSION OF THE GEN-TILES: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.”** The **conversion of others** should bring JOY to us.

Some people (even some brethren) place more emphasis on the physical than on the spiritual. They rejoice more over getting an increase in salary, accomplishing some literary achievement or being honored by men than they do over a person being **CONVERTED** to the Lord. Relative to other things, it seems that **CONVERSION** is often minimized. Many people fail to see and emphasize the **importance of CONVERSION**.

VERY IMPORTANT

Conversion is very important! Let us now consider some reasons why **conversion** is very important.

1. **CONVERSION IS COMMANDED IN THE LORD'S WORD!** To some who were guilty of killing **“the Prince of**

life,” the apostle Peter said: **“Repent ye therefore, and BE CONVERTED, that your sins may be blotted out, . . .”** (Acts 3:19). NOTE: Just as **repentance** is commanded, so is **conversion**. If one is not **converted** he is **not** complying to the will of God.

2. **CONVERSION IS ESSENTIAL TO ENTERING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!** In addressing His disciples Jesus declared: **“And verily I say unto you, Except ye BE CONVERTED, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”** NOTE: There is **no way** for any accountable person to enter into the kingdom of heaven without **being converted!** Those who die **before** will obviously be lost!

3. **CONVERSION IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVING SINS BLOTTED OUT!** To those guilty of sins in Acts 3:19 the apostle Peter commanded: **“Repent ye therefore, and BE CONVERTED, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”** NOTE: **Being converted** is absolutely essential to having your sins blotted out!

4. **CONVERSION IS ESSENTIAL TO SPIRITUAL HEALING (i.e., HAVING, ONE'S SINS FORGIVEN)!** Jesus said: **“Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive. For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should BE CONVERTED, and I should heal them.”** (Mt. 15:13-15). Also see John 12:40 & Acts 28:25-28) NOTE: The word

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CONVERSION — ITS IMPORTANCE

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translated “**heal**” in these passages means “**trop. to make whole**, i.e., to free from errors and sins, **to bring a-bout** (one’s) **salvation**: . . .” according to THAYER’S LEXICON, p. 296. So, obviously, the **healing** under consideration is of a spiritual nature. It is the idea of being made whole spiritually, or being saved from one’s sins.

To further show that spiritual wholeness (or having one’s sins forgiven or being saved from one’s sins) is under discussion, let us read Mk. 4:11-12 which says: “**And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should BE CONVERTED, and THEIR SINS SHOULD BE FORGIVEN THEM.**” **Note:** Spiritual healing, having one’s sins forgiven, is **not** possible without **conversion**.

Please observe that in each of the above passages, conversion always precedes the blessing! From this we can clearly see the **importance of conversion**.

Have you been converted? If not, you have not obeyed the Lord’s command to “**Be converted.**” If not, you don’t have your sins blotted out. Neither have you received spiritual healing nor have you entered into the kingdom of heaven! Why not “**Be converted**” today?

(CRS)

HOW CAN A PERSON DISOBEY GOD?

The **necessity** of obedience is shown in the Scriptures. Here are some of the Scriptures that teach **one must obey God** in order to go to heaven: Matthew 7:21-28;; John 14:21-23; Luke 6:46; Romans 6:17-18; James 1:21-27; 2 Thess. 1:5-10; Rev. 22:14; Romans 2:8-11; James 2:12 and Heb. 5:8-9.

There are five ways that a person can **disobey** God. Here they are:

1. **By doing what is forbidden!** In Gen. 2:16-17 God **commanded** the **man not to eat** of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve sinned in eating of the **forbidden** fruit. (See Gen. 3:6). Today, we sin when we do what God has forbidden!

2. **By not doing what God has commanded!** We learn from Luke 7:50 that the Pharisees and lawyers sinned by **not** being baptized by John. Today, we sin when God commands us to do something and we refuse to obey Him!

3. **By adding to God’s Word!** The Judaizers sinned by **adding** “**circumcision**” to God’s plan to save men under the New Covenant. (See Acts 15:1-29; Gal. 5:1-4). Today, we sin when we add to God’s Word! Please read Dt. 4:2; Rev. 22:18; 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 John 9. We dare **not** act beyond the authority of Christ. (Cf. Col. 3:17).

4. **By taking from the Word of God!** King Saul sinned when he left off a part of what he was told to do in 1 Sam. 15. We must **not** take away from what God hath spoken. (See Dt. 12:32; Rev. 22:19).

5. **By substituting for what God has commanded!** Moses substituted speaking to the people and smiting the rock for speaking to the rock like commanded. (Cf. Num. 20:1-12). Moses sinned in so substituting! We have **no** right to substitute anything for that which God has commanded!

James 2:12 says: “**So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.**” John said: “**Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.**” (1 John 3:4). See 2 John 9. (CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS AT EAST ALBERTVILLE

June 15-21, 1992 — J. F. Dancer
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CHILDREN — SINGULAR OR PLURAL IN TITUS 1:6:

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course **not!** If **one** thing is lacking, that would disqualify a man.

5. In Titus 1:8 we learn that a bishop must be “**a lover of good men.**” Without question the word “**men**” here is **plural**. That is the **primary, ordinary** meaning of **men** and should so be understood unless **forbidden** by the context or by some other Scriptural principle. Would it be logical to argue that if an elder must be a lover of good “**men**” (two or more) in order to **qualify**, that a person would have to **not love** (i.e., hate) at least two good men in order to **disqualify**? Of course **not!** Suppose he hated (i.e., did **not** love) only one good man, would that **disqualify** him? Of course it would disqualify him! **NOTE:** The truth is this: **ANYTHING** less than what is required to **qualify** will **disqualify!** Simple, isn't it?

6. When Jesus said: “**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned,**” (Mk. 16:16), He taught that **two** things are essential to salvation. **Anything** less than that will damn. Jesus showed that when he said, “**he that believeth not shall be damned.**” **NOTE:** If our brother in LOCUST LIGHT is logical when he argues that “**if it takes more than one faithful child to qualify it would take more than one riotous or unruly child to disqualify him,**” it would be logical to argue that “**If it takes belief and baptism to save a person it would take unbelief and no baptism to damn him.**” If not, why not?

7. The truth is obvious and simple: If it takes “**faithful CHILDREN** (plural — CRS) . . .” to qualify an elder, **any less** than a plural would disqualify. (CRS)

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

“He has the right to criticize who has the heart to help.” — Abraham Lincoln

* * * * *

One of the best ways to stay out of evil is to fill your life with doing good.

* * * * *

The price of sin is too high to afford.

* * * * *

The faith in your heart will be seen by the works in your life.

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